

I sent in the rain reports too early. Showers and dew and one small flood have occurred in the past 10 days. March has changed climates., Since the 20th or so of February we've had more late winter moisture than we usually receive in the course of our business lifetimes.

Not having the high gales and fierce dust storms in March is like the islands in the South Pacific having to send out for coral reefs and fish nets. Dust is part of the closing of our winters. Old ewes don't really start lambing until the west wind is blowing about 50 miles an hour. An old cow in the Shortgrass Country becomes restless and lost without a few dust storms to pelt her hide.

The settlers of the Shortgrass country became dust wise. They read the whirlwinds like sea captains know the currents and the tides. From late January on into April, billows of dirt from the north made their sun dials and compasses as useful as a lap dog at an opera house. The pioneers had to understand dusty weather and so did the Indians. Child Who Sits in the Sun's old mother never in her life went to bed without shaking the dust from her blankets. You think I'm trying to be funny. Just try to some time to go to sleep in a rawhide dress in a blanket gritted in dust. You will know after that experience that I'm a serious person and an honest one too.

Chest x-rays of Shortgrassers show that many of us have had a dist related illness called valley fever.